REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 2, 2009 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 21, 24, 35, 37, 48, 52, 71, and 72 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 2, 4-5, 47, and 49-50 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13, 19, 22-23, 26-27, 30, 36, 38-46, and 73-74 have been previously cancelled. New claims 75-76 have been added. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification, for example, at paragraphs 0044-0046. No new matter has been added and no new issues are raised which require further consideration or search. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 6-12, 14-18, 20-21, 24-25, 28-29, 31-35, 37, 48, 51-72 and 75-76 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-12, 14-18, 20, 35, 47-62, 71, and 73 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Pincus et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/075957) ("Pincus"), in view of Masuda (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0078031) ("Masuda"). The Office Action took the position that Pincus discloses all the elements of the claims with the exception of "a controller configured to control an allocation of said reserved portion between said ... plurality of services to be accessed by said at least one user device in a session, wherein the allocation is controlled after the request is made,"

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and similar limitations. The Office Action then cited Masuda as allegedly curing the deficiencies of Pincus.

Claims 2, 4-5, 47, and 49-50 have been cancelled, and said cancellation effectively moots the rejection, with respect to those claims. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully submit that said claims recite allowable subject matter for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1, upon which claims 6, 8-12, 14-18, and 20 are dependent, recites an apparatus, which includes a requesting unit configured to request that in a first entity, including an information store configured to store information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, a portion of the amount of money be reserved at the first entity, as a reserved portion, and a controller configured to control an allocation of the reserved portion between a plurality of services to be accessed by the at least one user device in a session. The allocation is controlled after the request is made, the apparatus is separate from the first entity and the at least one user device, and the controller is configured to allocate the reserved portion between the plurality of services as required, without dividing the reserved portion into a plurality of parts between the plurality of services.

Claim 21, upon which claims 24-25, 28-29, and 31-34 are dependent, recites an apparatus, which includes a requesting unit configured to request reservation of a portion of an amount of money defined by information stored at a first entity, and a receiver configured to receive from the first entity information defining an amount of the reserved

portion in a first form other than a monetary amount. The apparatus further includes a converter configured to convert information relating to the amount of the reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount, and a controller configured to control an allocation of the monetary amount between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously by a user device.

Claim 35, upon which claims 51 and 53-62 are dependent, recites a method, which includes requesting a first entity, the first entity storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, for a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion at the first entity, at a controller separate from the first entity and at least one user device. The method further includes controlling at the controller an allocation of the reserved portion between a plurality of services to be accessed in a session after the requesting to the first entity, where the controlling includes allocating the reserved portion between the plurality of services as required, without dividing the reserved portion into a plurality of parts between the plurality of services.

Claim 37, upon which claims 63-70 are dependent, recites a method, which includes requesting a reservation of a portion of an amount of money defined for at least one user device by stored information, and receiving, at a controller configured to allocate a reserved portion between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously, information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount. The method further includes converting information relating to the

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amount of the portion to a second form as a monetary amount, and then allocating the monetary amount between the plurality of services.

Claim 71 recites an apparatus, which includes means for requesting that in a first entity including an information store configured to store information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, a portion of the amount of money to be reserved at the first entity, as a reserved portion. The apparatus further includes means for, after the request is made, allocating the reserved portion between a plurality of services as required, without dividing the reserved portion into a plurality of parts between the plurality of services. The plurality of services is a plurality of services to be accessed by the at least one user device in a session, and the controller is separate to the first entity and the at least one user device.

Claim 72 recites an apparatus, which includes means for requesting reservation of a portion of an amount of an amount of money defined by information stored at a first entity, and means for receiving from the first entity information defining an amount of the reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount. The apparatus further includes means for converting information relating to the amount of the reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount, and means for controlling an allocation of the monetary amount between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously by a user device.

Claim 75, upon which claims 3 and 7 are dependent, recites an apparatus, which includes a requesting unit configured to request that in a first entity, including an

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information store configured to store information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, a portion of the amount of money be reserved at the first entity, as a reserved portion. The apparatus further includes a controller configured to, after the request is made, divide the reserved portion into a plurality of parts between the plurality of services, and reallocate a remainder of the reserved portion between the plurality of services when at least one of the plurality of services uses up its part of the reserved portion. The apparatus is separate from the first entity.

Claim 76, upon which claims 48 and 52 are dependent, recites a method, which includes requesting a first entity, the first entity storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, for a portion of the amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion at the first entity, at a controller separate from the first entity and at least one user device. The method further includes after the requesting, dividing the reserved portion into a plurality of parts between the plurality of services, and reallocating a remainder of the reserved portion between the plurality of services when at least one of the plurality of services uses up its part of the reserved portion.

As will be discussed below, the combination of Pincus and Masuda fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features discussed above.

Pincus discusses a computerized balance management system which includes a balance manager that maintains a database having pre-paid accounts. The accounts have data such as an account balance and other account configuration data. The system also

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communicates with a plurality of servers that are coupled to a mobile network. The balance manger is configured to perform the tasks of receiving queries from at least one of the plurality of servers, calculating a reservation amount based on the query, and reserving the reservation amount against the pre-paid account. (See Pincus at Abstract).

Masuda discusses a communication system where a service request transmitting section transmits a service request for a prepaid service, and a prepaid service executing section executes the prepaid service. A registration information transmitting section transmits registration information for executing the prepaid service. A user request receiving section receives the service request and the registration information. Based on the service request and the registration information, a prepayment control section performs prepayment control including allotting the balance of prepayment to a plurality of prepaid services to be conducted simultaneously. A prepaid service providing section provides the prepaid service in accordance with the corresponding allotment of the balance. (See Masuda at Abstract).

Applicants respectfully submit that Pincus and Masuda, whether considered individually or in combination, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, all of the elements of the present claims. For example, the combination of Pincus and Masuda fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, at least, "*wherein the controller is configured to allocate said reserved portion between said plurality of services as required, without dividing said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services*," as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 35 and 71; and "*a*

controller configured to, after the request is made, divide said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services, and reallocate a remainder of said reserved portion between said plurality of services when at least one of said plurality of services uses up its part of said reserved portion," as recited in independent claim 75, and similarly recited in independent claim 76.

With respect to, *"wherein the controller is configured to allocate said reserved portion between said plurality of services as required, without dividing said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services,"* as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 35 and 71, the Office Action correctly concludes that Pincus does not disclose a controller configured to control an allocation of a reserved portion between a plurality of services to be accessed by at least one user device in a session (see e.g. Office Action at page 3), and thus, also does not disclose the aforementioned limitation.

Furthermore, Masuda does not cure the deficiencies of Pincus. As discussed above, Masuda identifies a communication system 1 where a service request transmitting section transmits a service request for a prepaid service, and a prepaid service executing section executes the prepaid service. The communication system 1 includes a user terminal device 10 and a prepayment control device 20 and provides prepaid communication services over a network 30. In the prepayment control device 20, user request receiving means 21 receives the service request and the registration information. Prepayment control means 22 performs prepayment control over all prepaid services.

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Prepaid service providing means 23 provides the prepaid service in accordance with an allotted share of a balance. Handling confirming means 24 transmits a notification of confirmation as to service handling to the user terminal device 10 immediately before the user uses up the balance. (See Masada at paragraphs 0036, 0039-0041; Figure 1).

Masuda fails to disclose, or suggest, allocating a reserved portion between a plurality of services <u>without dividing the reserved portion into a plurality of parts between a plurality of services</u>. Instead, Masada explicitly describes allotting in advance a respective half of a balance to each of two services. Specifically, Masada describes how a balance is allotted in the case where a packet service is requested while a voice service is already being conducted. If the balance allotted to a voice service is ¥1000 when a service request for packet communication is made, ¥500 is allotted to each of the voice and packet services. (See Masuda at paragraphs 0049-0050). Thus, Masuda explicitly describes dividing the reserved portion into a plurality of parts between a plurality of services, and thus, fails to disclose, or suggest, the aforementioned limitation.

Turning to, "*a controller configured to, after the request is made, divide said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services, and reallocate a remainder of said reserved portion between said plurality of services when at least one of said plurality of services uses up its part of said reserved portion,*" as recited in independent claim 75, and similarly recited in independent claim 76, Applicants respectfully submit that Pincus fails to disclose, or suggest, the aforementioned limitation. As discussed above, Pincus describes a computerized balance

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management system which includes a balance manager that maintains a database having pre-paid accounts. Pincus further describes a method for reserving amounts against pre-paid services. Upon receiving a wireless event, the system of Pincus reserves an amount against the pre-paid amount, and authorizes a corresponding number of service units. (See Pincus at paragraphs 0048-0050; Figure 2). Pincus then describes four possible alternatives that may occur after an amount has been reserved against an account and a quantity of service units authorized based on the reserved amount. The first alternative is a depletion of authorized service units before the event is complete. (See Pincus at paragraph 0051). The second alternative is that a reservation is cancelled. (See Pincus at paragraph 0052). The third alternative is that the reservation expires prior to completion of the event, or before the event begins. (See Pincus at paragraph 0053). The fourth alternative is that the event completes, either prior to the depletion of authorized service units, or when the authorized service unit have been depleted. (See Pincus at paragraph 0054). None of the alternatives described in Pincus deal with the scenario where a reserved portion is divided into a plurality of parts between a plurality of services, and where at least one service uses up its part of the reserved portion. Thus, Pincus does not disclose reallocating a remainder of the reserved portion between the plurality of services, and thus, fails to disclose, or suggest the aforementioned limitation.

Furthermore, Masuda does not cure the deficiencies of Pincus. As described above, Masada describes allotting in advance a respective half of a balance to each of two services. Masada only discusses re-allotting the balance when one or more services and

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disconnected, and fails to address the scenario when one of the services uses up its part of the reserved portion. Specifically, Masuda states that if the allotments remaining for voice and packet services are ¥600 and ¥300, respectively, at the time a request for disconnection of the voice service is made, the prepayment control means 22 recalculates the balance and allots ¥900 to the packet service. (See Masuda at paragraphs 0051-0052). Thus, Masada fails to disclose, or suggest, reallocating a remainder of a reserved portion when at least one service uses up its part of the reserved portion, and thus, fails to disclose, or suggest, the aforementioned limitation.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, the combination of Pincus and Masuda fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, all of the elements of independent claims 1, 21, 35, 71, and 75-76. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 6, 8-12, 14-18, and 20 depend upon independent claim 1. Claims 51 and 53-62 depend upon independent claim 35. Claims 3 and 7 depend upon independent claim 75. Claims 48 and 52 depend upon independent claim 76. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 6-12, 14-18, 20, 48, 51, and 53-62 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon independent claims 1, 35, and 75-76, respectively, and for the specific elements recited therein.

The Office Action rejected claims 21, 24-25, 28-29, 32-34, 37, 63-66, 68-70, 72 and 74 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Pincus and in view of Masuda and further in view of Ephraim et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0077332)

("Ephraim"). The Office Action took the position that Pincus discloses all the elements of the claims with the exception of "a controller configured to control an allocation of said reserved portion between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously by a user device; a receiver configured to receive from said first entity information defining an amount of said reserved portion in a first [form] other than a monetary amount; and a converter configured to convert information relating to said amount of said reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount," and similar limitations. The Office Action then cited Masuda and Ephraim as allegedly curing the deficiencies of Pincus. Applicants respectfully submit that said claims recite allowable subject matter for at least the following reasons.

The present independent claims are described above. As will be discussed below, the combination of Pincus, Masuda, and Ephraim fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features discussed above.

The descriptions of Pincus and Masuda, as discussed above, are incorporated herein. Ephraim generally discloses a method for providing prepaid data transfer services to a subscriber through a communication device. The communication device is connected to a data network for transferring data from a data source, such as the Internet. A prepaid system monitors the data network in order to determine whether a particular requested data transfer should be authorized or continued. (See Ephraim at Abstract).

Applicants respectfully submit that Pincus, Masuda, and Ephraim, whether considered individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest, all of the

elements of the present claims. For example, the combination of Pincus, Masuda, and Ephraim fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, at least, *"a controller configured to control an allocation of said monetary amount between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously by a user device,"* as recited in independent claim 21, and similarly recited in independent claims 37 and 72, and *"a controller configured to, after the request is made, divide said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services, and reallocate a remainder of said reserved portion between said plurality of services when at least one of said plurality of services uses up its part of said reserved portion,"* as recited in independent claim 75, and similarly recited in independent claim 76.

With respect to *"a controller configured to control an allocation of said monetary amount between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously by a user device,"* as recited in independent claim 21, and similarly recited in independent claims 37 and 72, the Office Action correctly concludes that Pincus fails to disclose, or suggest, a controller. (See e.g. Office Action at page 11).

Furthermore, Masuda and Ephraim does not cure the deficiencies of Pincus. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 21 recites *"an allocation of said monetary amount,"* where *"said monetary amount"* refers back to a monetary amount that has been converted from information defining an amount of a reserved portion in a form other than a monetary amount. Independent claims 37 and 72 recite similar limitations. As discussed above, Masuda describes allotting in advance a respective half of a balance

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to each of two services. However, Masuda fails to disclose, or suggest, allocating a monetary amount which has been converted from information defining an amount of a reserved portion in a form other than a monetary amount.

Furthermore, Ephraim discusses a prepaid system which determines how data traffic is handled. The prepaid system examines packets representing requests or data and debits the prepaid account balance for the subscriber. Specifically, the prepaid system first calculates the debit in term of "tokens," which are arbitrary internal units for charging for data transfer. The prepaid system then converts the value of the tokens to a monetary value for debiting the account of the user. (See Ephraim at paragraph 0012). Ephraim explicitly states that the conversion is done for the purpose of debiting the account of the user, and not for the purpose of allocating a reserved portion between a plurality of services. Thus, Ephraim also fails to disclose, or suggest, allocating a monetary amount which has been converted from information defining an amount of a reserved portion in a form other than a monetary amount.

Turing to "*a controller configured to, after the request is made, divide said reserved portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services, and reallocate a remainder of said reserved portion between said plurality of services when at least one of said plurality of services uses up its part of said reserved portion,*" as recited in independent claim 75, and similarly recited in independent claim 76. Applicants respectfully submit that Pincus and Masuda fail to disclose, or suggest, the aforementioned limitation for the reasons discussed above. Furthermore, Ephraim does

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not cure the deficiencies of Pincus and Masuda. As described above, Ephraim fails to disclose, allocating a reserved portion between a plurality of services, and thus, also does not disclose, or suggest, reallocating a remainder of a reserved portion between a plurality of services.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, the combination of Pincus, Masuda, and Ephraim fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, all of the elements of independent claims 21, 37, 72, and 75-76. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 24-25, 28-29, and 32-34 depend upon independent claim 21. Claims 63-66 and 68-70 depend upon independent claim 37. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 63-66 and 68-70 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon independent claims 21 and 37, and for the specific elements recited therein.

The Office Action rejected claims 31 and 67 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Pincus and in view of Masuda and further in view of Ephraim and further in view of Ramakrishnan et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0148384) ("Ramakrishnan"). The Office Action took the position that Pincus discloses all the elements of the claims with the exception of "the apparatus which is configured to operate in accordance with a remote authentication dial-in user service (RADIUS) protocol." The Office Action then cited Masuda, Ephraim, and Ramakrishnan as allegedly curing the deficiencies of Pincus. Applicants respectfully submit that said claims recite allowable subject matter for at least the following reasons.

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The descriptions of Pincus, Masuda, and Ephraim, as described above are incorporated herein. Ramakrishnan generally discloses a method and system for enabling telecommunication network operators to transparently intermediate IP data flow, by providing a data classification method for implementing policy based filtering, forwarding, accounting, and/or monitoring of informational packets of interest. See Ramakrishnan at Abstract).

Claims 31 and 67 depend upon independent claims 21 and 37, respectively. As discussed above, the combination of Pincus, Masuda, and Ephraim does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of independent claims 21 and 37. Furthermore, Ramakrishnan does not cure the deficiencies in Pincus, Masuda, and Ephraim, as Ramakrishnan also does not disclose, teach, or suggest, at least, "*a controller configured to control an allocation of said monetary amount between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously by a user device,*" as recited in independent claim 21, and similarly recited in independent claim 37. Thus, the combination of Pincus, Masuda, Ephraim, and Ramakrishnan does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of claims 31 and 67. Additionally, claims 31 and 67 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon independent claims 21 and 37, and for the specific elements recited therein.
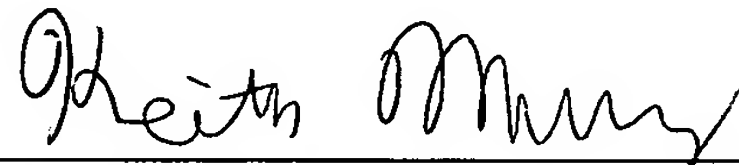
For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art references fail to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. These distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention

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unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1, 3, 6-12, 14-18, 20-21, 24-25, 28-29, 31-35, 37, 48, 51-72 and 75-76 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

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